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Constitutions

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Charter and Rules of Procedure of the

Albania

Bulgaria

Czechoslovakia

Estonia

Hungary

Latvia

Lithuania

Poland

Romania

Assembly of Captive European Nations

CHARTER OF THE ASSEMBLY
OF CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS

WE DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PEOPLES OF ALBANIA, BULGARIA,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ESTONIA, HUNGARY,
LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND AND ROMANIA

determined to uphold, serve, and further
the rightful aspirations to freedom, na-
tional independence, and social justice
of our peoples, now enslaved under alien
domination, and unable to speak for them-
selves; estimating that, through our com-
bined efforts within the Assembly of Cap-
tive European Nations, we have been able
more effectively to voice and promote the
common rights and interests of our peoples;

RESOLVE, to carry on our common efforts
until all objectives set forth in the
"Statement of Aims and Principles" adopted
at the constitutive meeting of the Assembly
of Captive European Nations, on September
20, 1955, shall be fully attained; and to
that end, to perfect our solidarity.

Therefore, we now solemnly agree to
adopt the present

CHARTER OF THE ASSEMBLY
OF CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS:

Chapter I
PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1

The purposes of the Assembly of Captive European Nations are:

1. To work for the liberation from communist dictatorship and Soviet domination of the captive nations of Central and Eastern Europe.
2. To affirm and sustain the right of the captive European nations to be represented in the United Nations only by their own legitimate governments, responsive to the will of the respective peoples.
3. To cooperate with all free nations represented in the United Nations, with the view of attaining the effective and universal implementation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.
4. To furnish the United Nations and its specialized Agencies, as well as its free member nations, with all available information concerning conditions in our respective countries that in any way run counter to the aims and principles of the United Nations.
5. To supply information and documentation to governmental and private institutions of the free world, as well as prominent personalities in the free world, making known the true situation prevailing in the captive European countries, and the indomitable

struggle of our enslaved peoples for freedom, independence, social justice, and democracy.

6. To seek in every appropriate way to enlist the support and cooperation of political, social, religious, cultural, and professional organizations of the free world, whose democratic activities might be apt to further the cause of the liberation of the captive nations.

7. To make available to the free world the knowledge and experience of communist rule, policies, tactics, and strategy, gained by the captive European nations.

8. To cooperate with the Council of Europe and the European Movement, with the aim of assuring an adequate representation of the captive European nations in those Bodies, and of preparing the way for the integration of these nations to an United Europe, following their liberation.

9. To maintain contacts with the peoples behind the Iron Curtain by all available means, with the view of sustaining their morale and of strengthening their will to resist and oppose communist dictatorship and alien control and domination, notably by providing the people with correct information on international developments, on the efforts made on their behalf by the free world, and on the activities of their own exiled spokesmen.

10. To strive to preserve and foster demo-

cratic ideals in the hearts and minds of the enslaved peoples, and to preserve and promote true values of their own spiritual, cultural, and political heritage both at home and abroad; and to promote research and studies apt to help freely elected governments in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, after liberation, in the task of democratic reconstruction.

11. To promote a spirit of understanding, unity, and cooperation among the national representations and groups in exile, and to seek to lay the solid foundations for future cooperation.

12. To provide all possible assistance to the democratic refugees from our enslaved countries, notably to endeavor to obtain that they might freely exercise their chosen profession and be employed, in the countries that shelter them, on an equal footing with the nationals of these countries; to protect them against repatriation to their enslaved countries of origin, attended by any form of duress whatsoever; to safeguard their human rights, personal self-respect, and national dignity, thus encouraging them, both individually and collectively, to preserve their cultural heritage and to contribute worthily to the cause of the liberation of their nations, as well as to their reconstruction following liberation.

Article 2

The Assembly of Captive European Nations and its individual members, in pursuit of the purposes set forth in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following principles:

1. The Organization is based on the principle of equality among all nations.

2. All members, in order to secure to each the full rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall, in good faith and to the best of their ability, strive to carry out the obligations assumed under the present Charter. They likewise undertake to settle by conciliation all differences that might arise among themselves.

3. The restoration of freedom and independence to the nations represented in this Organization is the common concern of all Members. Therefore all Members pledge themselves to the fullest measure of solidarity. They shall not cease or diminish their common efforts until liberation, as stated in Article 1, p. 1, is attained for all.

4. All Members agree in the view that all men and all nations have the inalienable right to liberty; that the cause of freedom is, like that of peace itself, one and indivisible; and that the suppression of freedom in any part of the world endangers the freedom of all nations and of all men.

5. Adherence to the principle of government

of the people, by the people, and for the people; and to the principle of the rule of law, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, are and shall remain basic qualifications for all Members. Members may base their own action upon any democratic doctrine consistent with the above principles, and the Organization for its part will treat such doctrines with equal respect.

6. The sole end of the Organization is the restoration to our respective nations of national independence and of the right to determine freely, through democratic processes, the political, social, and economic form of government under which they wish to live. Therefore, in regard to the international relations and status of these nations following their liberation, the Organization will confine its action to studies and recommendations, refraining from any commitments which only their respective peoples, through their freely elected governments, will have the authority to assume. In regard to the establishment of governments responsive to the will of the people, the Organization shall confine itself to the advocacy of the basic democratic principles.

Chapter II

MEMBERSHIP

Article 3

1. Membership in the Assembly of Captive European Nations is confined to National Committees or Councils, which shall be represented therein by national delegations, of which there shall be no more than one for each nation represented in the original membership. Each delegation shall consist of not more than 16 delegates.

2. Each delegation shall have one vote.

Article 4

National Committees or Councils representing nations that have not been represented as participants in the establishment of the Assembly may be admitted to membership. Such admissions shall be effected by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the organization.

Article 5

1. International political organizations based on major political parties or groups from the nations represented in the Assembly shall be eligible in the capacity of Associate Members.

2. Associate Members shall be represented each by a delegation of not more than four persons.

3. Such delegations of Associate Members

shall participate on equal terms with those of Members in the plenary meetings and working committees of the Assembly. They shall not, however, have the right to vote.

Article 6

The primary qualification for both full membership and associate membership shall entail that the political purpose, character, structure, and by-laws of the respective National Committee or Council and of such International Organizations as are described in Article 5 be wholly consistent with the purposes and principles set forth in the present Charter.

Article 7

1. International organizations formed by the exiles from Central and Eastern Europe for the purpose of defending the rights or of voicing the grievances of specific sections or groups of our enslaved peoples, such as religious, professional, cultural, humanitarian, and women's or youth organizations, may be granted the status of consultative organizations.

2. Consultative organizations shall be admitted to participate in the work of certain working committees of the Assembly, but shall not have the right of vote therein. The representatives of such consultative organizations may be eligible to address plenary meetings of the Assembly on matters in which the respective organizations are particularly qualified.

Chapter III

ORGANS

Article 8

1. The principal organs of the Assembly of Captive European Nations are established as follows: The Plenary Assembly; the General Committee; the working committees; and the Secretariat.

2. Subsidiary organs or special agencies may be set up by the General Committee, as necessity arises, anywhere in the free world.

Plenary Assembly

Article 9

1. The Plenary Assembly shall consist of the delegations duly appointed by the Members and Associate Members of the Organization.

2. The Plenary Assembly shall convene in ordinary session each year, during the month of September, and shall remain in session for one year thereafter.

3. The Plenary Assembly may take cognizance of and discuss any issue or specific question within the scope of the present Charter, or relating to the powers or functions of the organs provided for in this Charter.

4. Decisions on any matter involving principle shall be taken by the affirmative vote

of two-thirds of the national delegations. Decisions on all other matters, including questions of procedure, shall be taken by a simple majority vote of the member delegations. The determination of issues involving principle shall be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the member delegations.

5. The Assembly shall take no decision unless an absolute majority of the national delegations is present.

6. The Plenary Assembly shall convene in New York, the seat of the Assembly of Captive European Nations and of the United Nations. The General Committee may, however, call the Plenary Assembly into special session in any other place in the free world.

7. The meetings of the Plenary Assembly and of Special Sessions shall be presided, in rotation, by the chairmen of national delegations or by the members of the General Committee.

General Committee

Article 10

1. At the beginning of each session, the Plenary Assembly shall constitute a General Committee, which shall remain in continuous session for one year thereafter. The members of the General Committee, one for each nation, shall be designated by the respective national member organization.

2. The General Committee shall meet upon

being convened by its Chairman or whenever one-third of its members so decide.

3. The General Committee shall: propose the date for convening the Assembly; prepare and submit proposals to the Assembly; assign tasks to, and coordinate the work of, the working committees; make decisions on all matters relating to membership, provided for in Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the present Charter; elect, subject to confirmation by the Plenary Assembly, the officers of the Organization, to wit, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary General, and the Deputy Secretary General; act in the name of the Organization during the periods between the meetings of the Plenary Assembly; adopt, during such periods, and subject to approval by the Plenary Assembly, reports and resolutions on any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter; assure the implementation of the provisions of the present Charter and of the Rules of Procedure, and interpret these provisions; establish, within the general policy laid down through resolutions of the Plenary Assembly, the policy and program of the Organization, and supervise the execution thereof; establish and supervise the execution of the budget of the Organization; direct and supervise the work of the Secretariat, and, through its officers, execute the budget, and take all steps called for in the implementation of the purposes and principles of the

present Charter.

4. The Chairman of the General Committee or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, shall preside over the meetings of the General Committee.

5. During the intervals between the meetings of the General Committee, the Chairman of the General Committee or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, may act in the name of the Assembly upon urgent matters within the scope of the present Charter, and within the general policies laid down by the Plenary Assembly.

6. The Chairman of the General Committee or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, shall represent the Assembly of Captive European Nations, in its relations with international, governmental, and private institutions or organizations.

Working Committees

Article 11

1. The Plenary Assembly shall set up a Political Committee, a Social Committee, a Cultural Committee, an Economic Committee, a Legal Committee, and an Information Committee.

2. Each national delegation shall be represented in each of these Committees.

3. International political organizations admitted to be Associate Members shall likewise be represented on these Committees by one re-

presentative each; their representatives, however, shall not have the right to vote.

4. Consultative organizations shall be represented, each by one delegate, in every Committee to which they would be admitted; their delegates shall, however, have no voting rights.

5. Subject to confirmation by the Plenary Assembly, each Working Committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

6. The Committees shall be in permanent session. Their task is to study all matters assigned to them by the General Committee. They may, however, initiate such assignments by themselves proposing subjects appropriate in their estimation for consideration by the Assembly.

Secretariat

Article 12

1. The Secretariat shall comprise: one Secretary General, one Deputy Secretary General, and such other staff and personnel as the Organization may decide it requires.

2. The Secretary General shall be the chief administrative officer of the Assembly of Captive European Nations.

3. The Secretary General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Plenary Assembly and of the General Committee, and he shall also perform any other functions that

might be entrusted to him by these organs. The Secretary General shall make annual reports on the work of the Organizations to the General Committee. These reports shall then be submitted to the Plenary Assembly.

4. Subject to instructions from the General Committee, the Secretariat shall carry out the decisions of the Plenary Assembly. It shall put into effect the decisions of the General Committee itself, and lend such technical assistance as shall be considered necessary to all organs, subsidiary organs, and special organizations of the Assembly of Captive European Nations.

5. In the performance of their duties, the Secretary General and the members of his staff shall not seek nor receive instructions from any Member organization, or from any other authority external to the Organization. They shall not be members of any of the national or international delegations to the Assembly. They shall at all times refrain from any action that might reflect on their standing as officials of the Assembly of Captive European Nations, responsible only to the Organization.

Chapter IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 13

Rules of procedure, to be adopted by the Plenary Assembly, shall determine the or-

ganization and procedure of the organs of the Assembly of Captive European Nations.

Article 14

The Plenary Assembly may revise or amend the present Charter. This shall be done by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting Members of the Organization.

Article 15

The Assembly of Captive European Nations shall be dissolved upon the liberation of all nations represented therein.

ACEN Doc. No. 49 (Gen.) unanimously adopted in the 17th meeting of the Plenary Assembly, on September 28, 1955.

RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS

Chapter I

PLENARY ASSEMBLY
Rule I (Sessions)

1. The Plenary Assembly shall meet in ordinary session each year during the month of September.
2. The date of the beginning of each new session will be determined by the General Committee at least thirty days in advance.
3. Each annual session will be numbered.

Rule 2 (Date of meetings)

1. During each session the Plenary Assembly shall meet at the dates set by the General Committee.
2. The Plenary Meetings shall be consecutively numbered, beginning with the first plenary meeting of the first session.

Rule 3 (Credentials)

1. Ten days before the beginning of each new session, each member and associate member organization, as well as each consultative organization, shall submit to the General Committee, acting as credentials committee, the names of its delegate .
2. The duly signed credentials of member organizations shall include the name of the representative of the respective member organization in the General Committee and the name of his alternate, as well as the names

of members and experts for each committee.

3. The duly signed credentials of the associate member organizations shall indicate the name of the chairman of the respective delegation, as well as the name of the member, alternate and expert for each committee.

4. The duly signed credentials of the consultative organizations shall indicate the name of their representative, alternate, and expert for each committee to the work in which they were admitted to participate.

Rule 4 (Validation of credentials)

1. Acting as credentials committee, the General Committee shall examine the credentials with the view of establishing that they were issued by the responsible authority of each member, associate member, or consultative organization and that they conform to the provisions of the Charter and of the present Rules of Procedure.

2. On the basis of its findings the General Committee shall submit in the first meeting of each annual session a report on credentials. Following the adoption of this report the provisional list of delegates becomes final for the whole session.

3. Any change in the composition of delegations during a session is subject to the procedure set forth in the preceding two paragraphs.

Rule 5 (Delegations)

1. Only nationals of the nations represented in the Organization who have not

acquired another citizenship shall be designated as members in the national and international delegations. This rule, shall, however, not apply to experts.

2. . Once duly accredited a delegate shall not join or represent any other delegation for the duration of the respective session.

Rule 6 (Opening meetings of each session)

1. The opening meeting of each session of the Plenary Assembly shall be devoted to matters of organization.

2. The chairman of the General Committee shall preside over the opening meeting of each ordinary and special session.

3. The opening meeting of each annual session will take up matters of organization in the following order:

- a. Approval of the agenda proposed by the General Committee for the opening meeting.
- b. Report of the General Committee on credentials.
- c. Adoption of the General Agenda proposed by the General Committee for the whole session.
- d. Proposals of the General Committee for the revision or amendment of the charter or of the Rules of Procedure.
- e. Constitution of the General Committee.
- f. Constitution of the Committees.
- g. Report on the election of officers by the General Committee.
- h. Report on the election of officers by

the Committees.

4. In the course of the session, the Plenary Assembly may revise the general agenda it has adopted adding, deleting, deferring, or altering its items.

Chapter II

CONDUCT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Rule 7 (President)

1. The Chairmen of national delegations or members of the General Committee shall preside by rotation over the ordinary meetings and special session meetings of the Assembly, with the exception of the opening meeting of each ordinary and special session. The first President will be chosen by the General Committee by lot, to be succeeded by subsequent Presidents in English alphabetical order following the name of the country of the first President.

2. The President shall not vote.

Rule 8 (Quorum and voting)

Whenever not otherwise provided by the Charter of the Organization, a majority of two-thirds of national delegations in the Assembly shall constitute a quorum. Each national delegation in the Assembly shall have one vote. The Assembly shall vote by show of hands except that a roll-call is taken at the request of any delegate.

Rule 9 (Agenda for each meeting)

The first order of business in any plenary meeting or special session meeting is the adoption of the agenda for the respective meeting.

Rule 10 (Speeches)

The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 11 (Precedence)

The Chairman and the Rapporteur of a Committee may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by their Committee.

Rule 12 (Point of order)

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a point of order which the President shall immediately decide in accordance with the rules of procedure. The ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A delegate rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 13 (Time Limit on Speeches)

The Assembly may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker, and the number of times each delegate may speak on any question.

Rule 14 (Closing of List of Speakers)

During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers, and, with the consent of the Assembly, declare the list closed.

Rule 15 (Adjournment of Debate)

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 16 (Closure of Debate)

A delegate may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion. The motion shall be put to the vote after two speakers opposing the closure have had permission to speak.

Rule 17 (Suspension or Adjournment)

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may move the adjournment, sine die or to a fixed date, of the debate on the item, or the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall be immediately put to the vote without debate.

Rule 18 (Order of Procedural Motions)

The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting.

- a) a motion to suspend the meeting;
- b) a motion to adjourn the meeting;
- c) a motion to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) a motion for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

Chapter III

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Rule 19 (Alternates and observers)

1. Each national member organization shall appoint one alternate representative to the General Committee.
2. Alternates may attend all meetings of the General Committee. They are only entitled to vote or participate in the debate in the absence of the representative.
3. The Chairmen of the Committees shall participate as observers in the meetings of the General Committee whenever matters assigned for study to their respective Committees are under consideration. They shall have no right to vote and shall confine their participation in the debate to matters of direct concern to the work of their committees.
4. The General Committee may invite the participation in its meetings, as observers, of a representative of each associate member.

Rule 20 (Conduct of Business)

1. The rules provided for the conduct of business of the Plenary Assembly shall apply to the General Committee which may also establish the supplementary rules it may find necessary.
2. The General Committee shall take decisions only if two-thirds of its members are present.
3. The first order of business in each meeting of the General Committee shall be

the approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting unless it is decided to postpone consideration thereof for the next meeting.

4. The meetings of the General Committee shall be numbered consecutively beginning with the first meeting of the first session of the Assembly of Captive European Nations.

Rule 21 (Public meetings)

Whenever circumstances prevent the convening of the Plenary Assembly and urgent public action on the part of the Organization is required, the General Committee may convene in public meeting. A representative of the international member organizations shall participate in such meetings on the same terms as they are taking part in the Plenary Assembly.

CHAPTER IV

COMMITTEES

Rule 22 (Members, alternates and experts)

1. Each national delegation may appoint not more than three members and two experts for each working committee. Only one delegate, however, shall take part in the debate and vote at any given meeting.

2. Each international delegation may appoint one member, one alternate and one expert for each committee in the work of which it was admitted to participate.

3. Alternates shall meet the qualification set forth by Rule 5, para: 1.

Rule 23 (Sub-Committee)

1. Each Committee may set up such sub-committees as it deems necessary. Each sub-committee shall elect its own officers.
2. Alternates and experts may be appointed to membership in sub-committees.

Rule 24 (Conduct of business)

The rules for the conduct of the business of the Assembly shall apply to Committees and Sub-Committees except that a simple majority of the national delegations present and voting shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25 (Regional Working Committees)

In accordance with article 8, paragraph 2, of the Charter, the General Committee may establish for the duration of a session or on a more temporary basis, working committees, sub-committees or groups in places other than the seat of the Organization.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 26 (Organization and procedure)

1. The General Committee shall adopt, on the proposal of the Secretary General, a Regulation of organization and procedure of the Secretariat.
2. The General Committee shall appoint on the proposal of the Secretary General members of the Secretariat staff.
3. The General Committee may establish Secretariats and/or Press Offices, or appoint correspondents in places other than the seat

of the Organization. Such subsidiary organs shall act in accordance with rules to be determined by the General Committee.

Chapter VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Rule 27 (Guest Speakers)

The General Committee or, on its authority, the Chairman, may invite distinguished personalities from the nations of the free world to address the Plenary Assembly.

Rule 28 (Revision or amendment of the Rules Procedure)

The present rules may be revised or amended by the Plenary Assembly voting in accordance with article 9, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Charter.

Rule 29 (Abrogation of Rules of Procedure adopted in first session)

The present Rules of Procedure supersede the Rules of Procedure adopted in the first plenary meeting of the first session of the Assembly, on September 20, 1954, which are thereby abrogated.

ACEN Doc. No. 50 (Gen.) unanimously adopted in the 17th meeting of the Plenary Assembly, on September 28, 1955.

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